

1 SUE FAHAM
 2 Acting United States Attorney
 3 District of Nevada
 4 Nevada Bar Number 5634
 5 MELANEE SMITH
 6 STEVEN J. ROSE
 7 Nevada Bar Number 13575
 8 Assistant United States Attorneys
 9 501 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 1100
 10 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
 11 (702) 388-6336
 12 Melanee.Smith@usdoj.gov
 13 Steven.Rose@usdoj.gov
 14 DAVID L. JAFFE
 15 Chief, Violent Crime and Racketeering Section
 16 U.S. Department of Justice
 17 JEREMY I. FRANKER
 18 CHRISTOPHER O. TAYLOR
 19 Trial Attorneys
 20 Violent Crime and Racketeering Section
 21 U.S. Department of Justice
 22 Jeremy.Franker@usdoj.gov
 23 Christopher.Taylor2@usdoj.gov
 24 Attorneys for the United States

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

15 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 16 Plaintiff,
 17 vs.
 18 JOSE LUIS REYNALDO REYES-CASTILLO,
 19 a/k/a "Molesto,"
 20 DAVID ARTURO PEREZ-MANCHAME,
 21 a/k/a "Walter Melendez,"
 22 a/k/a "Herbi,"
 23 JOEL VARGAS-ESCOBAR,
 24 a/k/a "Momia," and
 ALEXANDER DE JESUS FIGUEROA-TORRES,
 Defendants.

Case No. 2:19-cr-00103-GMN-MDC

**GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO
DEFENSE MOTION FOR 404(b)
NOTICE [ECF Nos. 161, 171, 173,
and 178]¹**

¹ Certification: This response is timely. *See* ECF No. 158 (modified at ECF No. 189).

INTRODUCTION

2 The United States of America, by and through SUE FAHAMI, Acting United States
3 Attorney and MELANEE SMITH and STEVEN ROSE, Assistant United States Attorneys;
4 and DAVID L. JAFFE, Chief of the Violent Crime and Racketeering Section and JEREMY
5 FRANKER and CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR, Trial Attorneys, hereby responds to the
6 defendants' motion for the Court to order the government to provide at least 30 days' notice of
7 any 404(b) evidence it intends to use at trial.

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

9 If the government intends to use any evidence at trial that falls under Federal Rule of
10 Evidence 404(b), the government will provide notice to the defendants at least 30 days prior to
11 trial, as they request.

12 However, in a RICO/VICAR case such as this one, the government anticipates
13 admitting evidence that is not expressly listed in the indictment; such evidence is not Rule
14 404(b) evidence. The case law in relation to conspiracy charges reaches broadly, and remains
15 broad in cases alleging RICO conspiracies. *See United States v. Montgomery*, 384 F.3d 1050, 1062
16 (9th Cir. 2004) (“We conclude that each action was ‘inextricably intertwined’ with the
17 conspiracy, and therefore not subject to Rule 404(b), because each occurred within the temporal
18 scope of the conspiracy and comprised the conspiracy”). “The rule is well established that the
19 government in a conspiracy case may submit proof on the full scope of the conspiracy; it is not
20 limited in its proof to the overt acts alleged in the indictment.” *United States v. Rizk*, 660 F.3d
21 1125, 1131 (9th Cir. 2011); *see also United States v. Cruz-Ramirez*, 782 F. App’x 531, 542 (9th
22 Cir. 2019) (“Evidence of [a defendant’s] uncharged acts was evidence ‘directly related

1 to, or inextricably intertwined with, the crime charged in the indictment,’ and was
2 therefore not subject to Rule 404(b)’s notice requirement.”), quoting *Rizk*, at 1131-32;
3 *United States v. Gibbs*, 190 F.3d 188, 217-8 (3d Cir. 1999) (“A number of courts likewise have
4 held that Rule 404(b) does not limit the admission of evidence of the defendant’s participation in
5 acts of violence as direct proof of a conspiracy. We endorse this reading of Rule 404(b.”);
6 *United States v. Henley*, 766 F.3d 893, 915 (8th Cir. 2014) (“evidence of uncharged crimes was
7 admissible in a RICO prosecution as proof of an enterprise, of the continuity of racketeering
8 activity, and of the defendant’s knowledge of, agreement to, and participation in the
9 conspiracy.”); *United States v. Gonzalez*, 921 F.2d 1530, 1545–46 (11th Cir. 1991) (holding
10 evidence of uncharged crimes admissible in RICO conspiracy, recognizing that, “[i]n addition
11 to predicate crimes, a RICO conspiracy charge requires proof of an enterprise, of the continuity
12 of racketeering activity, and of the defendant’s knowledge of, agreement to, and participation in
13 the conspiracy”).

14 / /

15 / /

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1 As these authorities firmly establish, the government is not limited to presenting evidence
2 that is expressly listed in the indictment. Any evidence the government seeks to admit will be
3 used to prove the existence of the enterprise, a defendant's membership or association within
4 the enterprise, knowledge of racketeering acts or participation in the enterprise.

5

6 DATED this 24th day of February 2025.

7

SUE FAHAMI
Acting United States Attorney

8

/s/Melanee Smith

/s/Steven Rose _____

MELANEE SMITH

STEVEN ROSE

Assistant U.S. Attorneys

9

10

11

DAVID L. JAFFE

Chief, Violent Crime and Racketeering Section

12

13

/s/Jeremy Franker

/s/Christopher Taylor _____

JEREMY FRANKER

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

Trial Attorneys

Violent Crime and Racketeering Section

U.S. Department of Justice

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24